(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken thereon;

(c) whether it is also a fact that FDI is allowed to certain extent at present in retail sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise;

(c) and (d) As per extant policy, FDI is not permitted in retail trading.

Permission for take-over of distilleries by foreign companies

498. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are the sole authority in regard to setting up/taking over of distilleries for production of IMFL by foreign based copanies in India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some State Governments particularly Karnataka and Maharashtra have granted permission to foreign based companies for taking over distilleries producing IMFL without the Central Government's approval; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) FDI in distillation and brewing of potable alcohol require prior approval of Central Government;

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Impact of reforms on agri-trade

499. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the new-item captioned "concerns over directions of post reforms agri-trade" which appeared in the Economic Times dated 28th December, 2001;

(b) if so, the impact of trade liberalisation on India's agricultural exports and imports since its open door policy of 1991;

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) the fresh policy initiatives taken to correct the reported shift and developing imbalance in the nature and content of the exports/imports

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (d) The article referred to is apparently based on certain studies and draws certain broad conclusions on the impact of trade liberalisation on agri-trade. Without commenting on the validity or otherwise of the conclusions, it may be said that the changes in the export and import baskets reflect realities of international trade which in turn are dependent on a wide variety of factors. The Government however, is alive to the situation and has undertaken a number of initiatives to promote agri-exports such as Agri Export Zones, provision of financial assistance through various schemes being operated by Commodity Boards/Authorities, etc.

Industrial growth centres in Assam

500. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up industrial growth centres in Assam during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the location-wise details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (c) Under the Growth Centre Scheme, three Growth Centres are to be set up in Assam. Of these, two Centres at Chariduar (Distt: Sonitpur) and Matia (Distt: Goalpara) have been approved by the Central Government and are various stages of development. For the third Growth Centre to be set up at Chaygaon and Patgaon in Kamrup Distt., Project Report has been recently submitted by the State Government. The project report is under consideration.